What is Claimed

1. A method for interacting with a computer, comprising:

establishing a communications connection between the computer and a remote communications device;

receiving an audio signal in the form of a request from the user;

processing the audio signal to determine a desired function; and

determining whether the desired function requires a spoken response and, if so, providing a spoken response to the user by way of the remote communications device and, performing the desired function responsive to the audio signal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step is initiated by the computer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step is initiated by the user by way of the remote communications device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises establishing a telephone communications link.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the telephone communications link is by way of a cellular telephone network.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises establishing a Voice over Internet Protocol connection.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein establishing the Voice over Internet Protocol connection further comprises establishing a telephone communications link.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said establishing step is by way of a plurality of telecommunications networks.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the Voice over Internet Protocol connection is by way of a Session Initiation Protocol telephone.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises establishing a direct wireless communications link with the computer.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the direct wireless communications link is by way of a cordless telephone.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a spoken prompt to a user by way of the remote communications device.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein providing a spoken prompt comprises selecting an output grammar; converting the output grammar to voice output; and transmitting the voice output to the user by way of the remote communications device.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the audio signal is a spoken utterance.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said processing step comprises comparing the spoken utterance to a plurality of grammars of possible spoken utterances; determining which of the grammars has been spoken by the user; and determining the desired function, wherein the desired function corresponds to the grammar.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of grammars of possible spoken utterances is stored in a computer file.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the computer file is a spreadsheet.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising selecting the grammar of possible spoken utterances from a first cell in the spreadsheet, and determining the desired function from a second cell in the spreadsheet.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the first cell is in a first row of the spreadsheet, and the second cell is in a second row of the spreadsheet.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the first cell is in a first column of the spreadsheet, and the second cell is in a second column of the spreadsheet.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the computer file is a database.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the computer file is a file associated with a scheduling program.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the desired function responsive to the audio signal comprises locating data according to the audio signal; and wherein providing the spoken response comprises converting the data to a spoken format and transmitting the spoken format by way of the communications connection.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the desired function responsive to the audio signal comprises modifying stored data according to the audio signal.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving new data from the user and recording the new data in a file.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the file is a database.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the file is a spreadsheet.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein the file is a scheduling file.

29. A method for enabling a personal computer to communicate with a user, comprising:

reading an entry in a data file;

initiating a communications connection between the computer and a remote communications device responsive to the entry;

generating an audio notification according to the entry; and

transmitting the audio notification by way of the remote communications device.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said initiating step comprises establishing a telephone communications link.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the telephone communications link is by way of a cellular telephone network.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein said initiating step comprises establishing a Voice over Internet Protocol connection.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein said initiating step comprises establishing a direct wireless communications link with the computer.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said initiating step further comprises establishing a Voice over Internet Protocol connection.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein said reading step comprises loading the data file into memory, and recognizing an entry within the data file, wherein the entry indicates a time to contact the user.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein a grammar of possible spoken utterances is stored in the data file.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the data file is a spreadsheet.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the data file is a database.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein the data file is an alarm script.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein the data file is associated with a scheduling program.

41. A system for providing access to a personal computer, comprising:

a communications component for establishing a communications channel between the computer and a remote communications device;

a sound recognition component for receiving an audio input and converting the input to digital form;

a text-to-voice component for converting textual data to spoken form;

a file interface component for interacting with a file having the data stored therein; and

an interface program, wherein the interface program is adapted to receive the input by way of the communications channel, cause the sound recognition component to convert the input to determine a desired function, and cause a component to perform the desired function.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the interface program is further adapted to cause the file interface to interact with the file according to the desired function, and cause the text-to-voice component to provide a result of the desired function in spoken form to the remote communications device.

43. The system of claim 41, wherein the interface program is further adapted to cause the file interface to read data within the file, cause the communications component to establish the communications channel with the remote communications device in response to the data, cause the text-to-voice component to generate a

message according to the data, and cause the communications component to transmit the message.

44. The system of claim 41, wherein the system further comprises a sound generation component for generating sound, and wherein the interface program is further adapted to cause the file interface to read data within the file, cause the communications component to establish the communications channel with the remote communications device in response to the data, cause a sound generation component to generate a sound, and cause the communications component to transmit the sound.

45. The system of claim 41, wherein the communications channel is established at the computer by one of: a cellular telephone having a cable interconnection with the computer, a cellular personal computing telephony device, a cordless telephone, a telephone gateway device, or a corded telephone having a cable interconnection with the computer.

46. The system of claim 41, wherein the communications channel is established at the remote communications device by one of: a cellular telephone, a cordless telephone, a corded telephone, a speakerphone, a second computer having telephony software, a second computer having a Voice over Internet Protocol connection, or a second computer having instant messaging software.

47. The system of claim 41, wherein the communications channel is established by way of one of: a PSTN network, a cellular network, a Voice over Internet Protocol Network, or a radio network.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the communications channel is established by way of a plurality of networks.

49. The system of claim 41, wherein the audio input is a spoken utterance in the form of a request.

50. The system of claim 41, wherein the audio input is a DTMF signal.

51. The system of claim 49, wherein the interface program is further adapted to select a component according to the desired function, and cause the selected component to perform the desired function according to the utterance.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein the desired function is to retrieve the stored data.

53. The system of claim 51, wherein the desired function is to modify the stored data.

54. The system of claim 51, wherein the desired function is to add new data to the computer.

55. The system of claim 51, wherein the desired function is to create a new file.

56. The system of claim 51, wherein the desired function is to perform a task.

57. The system of claim 51, wherein the selected component is one of: software for recording audio transmissions, software for generating audio transmissions, software for controlling a hardware device, or software for controlling software activity.

58. The system of claim 49, wherein the sound recognition component is a speech recognition module.

59. The system of claim 49, wherein the sound recognition component is a DTMF decoder.

60. The system of claim 41, wherein the sound recognition component, text-to-voice component and file interface component are application program interfaces.

61. The system of claim 41, wherein the sound recognition component, text-to-voice component and file interface component are software applications.

62. The system of claim 41, wherein the file is one of: a spreadsheet, an email server, and email client, a database, a monitor, a sensor, a word processing file, or enterprise application data.

63. The system of claim 62, wherein the file comprises a plurality of files.

64. The system of claim 41, wherein the file interface component is adapted to interface with a spreadsheet having links to Internet data.

65. The system of claim 41, wherein the file interface component is adapted to interface with a database having links to Internet data.

66. The system of claim 41, wherein the file interface component is adapted to interface with a word processing file having links to Internet data.

67. The system of claim 41, wherein the file interface component is adapted to interface with a scheduling file having links to Internet data.

68. The system of claim 41, wherein the interface program further establishes the communications channel and causes the text-to-voice component to generate a spoken alert to the remote communications device.

69. The system of claim 68, wherein the interface program establishes the communications channel responsive to the stored data.

70. The system of claim 69, wherein the stored data corresponds to an alarm.

71. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for interacting with a computer, comprising:

establishing a communications connection between the computer and a remote communications device;

receiving an audio signal in the form of a request from the user;

processing the audio signal to determine a desired function; and

determining whether the desired function requires a spoken response and, if so, providing a spoken response to the user by way of the remote communications device and, performing the desired function responsive to the audio signal.

72. The computer-readable medium of claim 71, wherein said establishing step is initiated by the computer.

73. The computer-readable medium of claim 71, wherein said establishing step is initiated by the user by way of the remote communications device.

74. The computer-readable medium of claim 71, further comprising providing a spoken prompt to a user by way of the remote communications device.

75. The computer-readable medium of claim 74, wherein providing a spoken prompt comprises selecting an output grammar; converting the output grammar to voice output; and transmitting the voice output to the user by way of the remote communications device.

76. The computer-readable medium of claim 71, wherein the audio signal is a spoken utterance.

77. The computer-readable medium of claim 76, wherein said processing step comprises comparing the spoken utterance to a plurality of grammars of possible

spoken utterances; determining which of the grammars has been spoken by the user; and determining the desired function, wherein the desired function corresponds to the grammar.

78. The computer-readable medium of claim 77, wherein the plurality of grammars of possible spoken utterances is stored in a computer file.

79. The computer-readable medium of claim 78, wherein the computer file is a spreadsheet.

80. The computer-readable medium of claim 79, further comprising selecting the grammar of possible spoken utterances from a first cell in the spreadsheet, and determining the desired function from a second cell in the spreadsheet.

81. The computer-readable medium of claim 80, wherein the first cell is in a first row of the spreadsheet, and the second cell is in a second row of the spreadsheet.

82. The computer-readable medium of claim 80, wherein the first cell is in a first column of the spreadsheet, and the second cell is in a second column of the spreadsheet.

83. The computer-readable medium of claim 76, wherein performing the desired function responsive to the spoken utterance comprises locating data according to the spoken utterance; and wherein providing the spoken response comprises converting the data to a spoken format and transmitting the spoken format by way of the communications connection.

84. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for enabling a personal computer to communicate with a user, comprising:

reading an entry in a data file;

initiating a communications connection between the computer and a remote communications device responsive to the entry;

generating an audio notification according to the entry; and

transmitting the audio notification by way of the remote communications device.

85. The computer-readable medium of claim 84, wherein said initiating step comprises establishing a telephone communications link.

86. The computer-readable medium of claim 84, wherein said reading step comprises loading the data file into memory, and recognizing an entry within the data file, wherein the entry indicates a time to contact the user.